

India-EU information society and India-EU Civil Society Roundtable.

- (ii) Increased cooperation in Science & Technology, including networking of centres of excellence, Joint research projects and research & training networks as well as joint research on bio-fuels.
- (iii) Establishing an India-UE macro-economic dialogue.
- (iv) Establishment of an India-EU CEO's Roundtable.
- (v) Increased academic cooperation and exchanges between economic academic institutions on both sides.
- (vi) Promotion of environmental research and development of clean technology.
- (vii) Holding of India-EU Seminar on skill development, training and employment.
- (viii) Holding a seminar on corporate governance and regulatory framework.
- (ix) Establishment of a discussion on public-private partnerships.

Apprehensions of Land-Gamble by SEZs

1515. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether apprehensions are being expressed that the initiatives to set up new SEZs would kick start a land gamble, and fertile agricultural land is being used for the purpose;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to address the same;

(c) what measures are underway to make the members of Board of Approvals (BoA) exercise proper vigilance, before approving fresh proposals; and

(d) whether the extant rules have been put in place for the desired built-in checks and balances to obviate deliberate abuse of developmental initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The States have been advised the while acquiring land for SEZs, if perforce, double crop land is to be acquired for meeting the minimum land and contiguity criteria, specially in case of Multi Product SEZs,

it must be ensured that such land does not exceed 10% of the total area proposed for the SEZ. After grant of formal approval, effective steps for implementation have to be taken by the developer within 3 years of the date of approval.

(c) The Board of Approval has prescribed a check list for scrutiny of the proposals. Further it has decided that only such proposals which are duly recommended by the State Government will be considered by the Board of Approvals.

(d) The Central Government has notified a list of operations which alone can be undertaken by the developers in the Special Economic Zones. (SEZs) with the approval of the Board of Approvals. Such authorized operations alone would qualify for tax and duty concessions.

FTA With China

1516. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has offered FTA with India;

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have assessed that the subsidy provided by the Chinese Government to their manufacturing and service sectors may distort the bilateral trade under the proposed FTA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a Joint Task Force of India and China looking into the feasibility of a Regional Trading Arrangement and its benefits.